REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action issued on May 20, 2005. By this response, claims 1 and 15 and the abstract are amended. Claims 27 is newly presented. No new matter is added. Claims 1-27 are now active for examination.

The Office Action dated May 20, 2005 rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Beckert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,363). The Abstract was objected to for formality reason.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome and the objection is addressed, in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

The Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-26 Is Overcome

Claims 1-26 were rejected as being anticipated by Beckert. By this Response, independent claims 1 and 15 are amended. It is respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection is overcome because Beckert cannot support a prima facie case of anticipation.

Claim 1, as amended, describes a multipurpose multifunctional (M/M) interface device including one or more system ports configured to couple to a system to be diagnosed, and one or more diagnostic ports configured to couple to more than one type of diagnostic system. A main processor module is provided to control communications between the system ports and the diagnostic ports, and to selectively transition the M/M interface device between a standby mode at a reduced power level and an operational mode at a full power level. Appropriate support for the amendment can be found in, for example, paragraph [0013] of the written description.

Accordingly, an exemplary interface device according to claim 1 includes a processor and at least one diagnostic port to facilitate communications between a vehicle or a subsystem thereof and more than one type of diagnostic systems, such as a portable gas analyzer, onboard

diagnostics system, diesel smoke meter, OBD II scan tools, engine analyzer, bar code scanner, gas cap tester, or the like.

On the other hand, Beckert relates to an on-vehicle computer including connectors to couple to various vehicle subsystems, and an OBD system 28. However, OBD system 28 is the only type of diagnostic system that couples to the on-vehicle computer of Beckert. Consequently, Beckert fails to disclose "a multipurpose multifunctional (M/M) interface device including...one or more diagnostic ports configured to couple to more than one type of diagnostic system," as described by claim 1. Since Beckert does not teach every limitation of claim 1, the anticipation rejection based on Beckert is untenable and should be withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 15, as amended, also requires one or more diagnostic ports configured to couple to more than one vehicle diagnostic system. Therefore, for at least the same reasons as for claim 1, claim 15 is also patentable over Beckert. Favorable reconsideration of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14 and 16-26, directly or indirectly, depend on claims 1 and 15, respectively, and incorporate every limitation thereof. Consequently, claims 2-14 and 16-26 also are patentable over Beckert by virtue of their dependencies on claims 1 and 15, as well as based on their own merits. Favorable reconsideration of claims 2-14 and 16-26 is respectfully requested.

The Objection to the Abstract Is Addressed

The Examiner objected to the Abstract for using the term "comprises." By this Response, the term "comprises" is replaced by "includes." Applicants submit that the Abstract is now in appropriate form.

New Claim 27 Is Patentable

New claim 27 describes a multipurpose multifunctional (M/M) interface device for vehicle diagnostics, wherein the interface device in non-integral to a vehicle. The device includes one or more vehicle system ports configured to couple to at least one vehicle, and one or more diagnostic ports configured to couple to at least one vehicle diagnostic system. A main processor module is provided to control communications between the system ports and the diagnostic ports, and to selectively transition the M/M interface device between a standby mode at a reduced power level and an operational mode at a full power level.

In contrast to the system described in claim 27, Beckert pertains to an on-vehicle computer for mounting in a vehicle dashboard or other appropriate location. See Abstract of Beckert. Accordingly, claim 27 is patentable over Beckert, the closest patent identified by the Office Action. It is believed that claim 27 is also patentable over other less relevant patents of record. Favorable consideration of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

For the reasons given above, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner give the application favorable reconsideration and permit it to issue as a patent. If the Examiner believes that the application can be put in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representatives listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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